



November 22, 2005

Dear Delegate:

On behalf of the Policy Committee, I am pleased to transmit the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) Delegate Resource Workbook. The Resource Workbook is being sent for your careful review and consideration in advance of your participation as a delegate to the historic WHCoA to take place from December 11 to 14, 2005 in Washington, DC.

Resolution Development

The Workbook contains 73 proposed resolutions developed by the WHCoA Policy Committee. These resolutions are based on public input solicited by the WHCoA over the past 15 months from testimony and reports submitted at nearly 400 Listening Sessions, Solutions Forums, Mini-Conferences, and Independent Aging Agenda events as well as general public input that has been received by the WHCoA. Though these resolutions reflect diverse opinions and are not specifically endorsed by the Policy Committee, we believe that as presented to you they accurately address the emerging issues, interests, and concerns of individuals who participated in these events as well as the unsolicited input from across the country.

The resolutions are organized by the six tracks that comprise the Annotated Agenda: Planning Along the Lifespan, The Workplace of the Future, Our Community, Health and Long Term Living, Civic Engagement and Social Engagement, and Technology and Innovation in an Emerging Senior/Boomer Marketplace. The final Annotated Agenda also is included. In some cases, the resolutions represent issues that cut across more than one Annotated Agenda track; those are identified in a separate Cross-Cutting category at the end of the resolutions.

Vote on Top 50 Resolutions

When you arrive in Washington, DC, you will be asked to select, using a formal ballot, the 50 resolutions that you believe are the most important for current and

future generations of senior citizens. Three blocks of time have been set aside during which you may vote: Sunday, December 11, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Monday, December 12, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and, Monday, December 12, 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

As you know, the 2005 WHCoA has a statutory mandate to focus on baby boomers as well as current seniors. This mandate is reflected in the theme for the 2005 WHCoA, which is "The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action," and the WHCoA Policy Committee has taken this mandate seriously in developing the resolutions presented in this Workbook.

Presentation and Discussion of Policy Tracks

On Monday, December 12, delegates will have an exciting opportunity to hear insightful presentations about the broad WHCoA Agenda and issue topics from national, well-known issue experts.

Implementation Strategy Sessions

As important as the resolutions are, their implementation strategies are essential. The Policy Committee shares a strong desire that this first WHCoA of the 21st Century produces real, positive results that will make a difference in the lives of future generations. The 50 resolutions selected by the delegates will identify WHAT are priorities the nation should address; their implementation strategies should suggest HOW the resolutions might be put into action.

Because White House Conferences on Aging occur only once every decade, the Policy Committee believes it is critical for delegates to consider what actions must be taken over the next ten years and beyond to translate the resolutions of this Conference into meaningful policies, policy changes, and ACTIONS across the spectrum of Federal, State, and local Government levels, as well as throughout business and industry, both private and non-profit sectors, including responsibilities to be assumed by individual citizens. Therefore, a significant amount of your time at the Conference will be dedicated to developing implementation strategies for each of the 50 resolutions selected by the delegates.

Breakout Workshops for Implementation Strategy Sessions

On Tuesday, December 13, you will have the opportunity to participate in three breakout workshops organized around the 50 resolutions you voted on the days before, where you will work with fellow delegates to develop the plans to make the resolutions a reality. In studying the resolutions provided in the Resource Workbook, you may wish to refer to "solutions" or "implementation strategies"

that are posted on the WHCoA website, [\[www.whcoa.gov\]](http://www.whcoa.gov). These examples, extracted from the public input received by the WHCoA, are meant to spark creative discussion and are not meant to convey the endorsement of the WHCoA for any one specific strategy or approach. If, for any reason, you do not have access to the Internet, please call 301.443.9462 and we will mail you a copy.

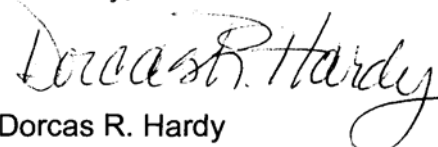
In the workshops, you will be asked to develop implementation strategies for each resolution. Each implementation strategy should clearly identify whose responsibility it is to take a proposed action, specify what the action is, in what jurisdiction it falls (Federal, State, local, business and industry, non-profit, community, individual, baby boomers, etc.), and it should clearly describe the proposed or anticipated outcome. Each implementation strategy should reflect both short and long-term goals, should be realistic, fiscally responsible, and meaningful to the lives of current and future generations of older persons.

We believe we have an exciting program, beginning with the **Healthy Living Celebration!** on Sunday (bring your exercise attire!), the unique exhibits, excellent issue speakers, a celebratory dinner, and a closing luncheon with a **Healthy Heart** theme. To emphasize the **Healthy Heart** theme, it would be appropriate for each of us to wear something red – a scarf, pin, tie, suit or whatever! - at the luncheon.

As a closing comment, I would like to comment that, at the first WHCoA in 1961, participants focused on the “problems” of the aging. Our country has come a long way since that time. Now more than four decades later, as we prepare to convene the historic 2005 WHCoA, we have a unique chance to focus on not only the challenges but the tremendous opportunities that a growing aging population presents to each of us, to our communities and our country.

Please come to this conference ready to vote for your top 50 resolutions and participate in your choice of implementation strategy sessions. I am optimistic that when the next WHCoA convenes, we will look back with great pride and satisfaction at the accomplishments produced by the 2005 WHCoA. We look forward to welcoming you in December and thank you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorcas R. Hardy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dorcas" being more prominent and the last name "Hardy" following in a similar style.

Dorcas R. Hardy
Chairman, Policy Committee